



# Cattle

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## July 1 Cattle Inventory Down 1 Percent

**All cattle and calves** in the United States as of July 1, 1999, totaled 106.8 million head, 1 percent below the 107.7 million on July 1, 1998 and 2 percent below the 109.2 million two years ago.

**All cows and heifers** that have calved, at 43.2 million, were 1 percent below the 43.6 million on July 1, 1998 and 2 percent below the 44.1 million two years ago.

- **Beef cows**, at 34.1 million, were down 1 percent from July 1, 1998 and 2 percent below two years ago.
- **Milk cows**, at 9.15 million, were down 1 percent from July 1, 1998 and 2 percent below two years ago.

Other class estimates on July 1, 1999, and the changes from July 1 last year and two years ago, respectively, are as follows:

- **All heifers** 500 pounds and over, 16.6 million, down 1 percent and down 3 percent.
- **Beef replacement heifers**, 4.8 million, down 4 percent and down 9 percent.
- **Milk replacement heifers**, 3.7 million, up 3 percent and up 3 percent.
- **Other heifers**, 8.1 million, no change and down 1 percent.
- **Steers** weighing 500 pounds and over, 14.4 million, down 1 percent and down 3 percent.
- **Bulls** weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.1 million, down 5 percent and down 9 percent.
- **Calves under 500 pounds**, 30.5 million, down slightly and down 1 percent.
- **All cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter, 11.4 million, up 4 percent and up 5 percent.

## Calf Crop Down 1 Percent

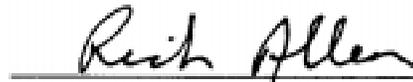
**The 1999 calf crop** is expected to be 38.3 million, down 1 percent from 1998 and down 2 percent from 1997. This would be the smallest calf crop since 1952. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 28.2 million, down 1 percent from 1998 and 1997.

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This report was approved on July 16, 1999.



Acting Secretary of  
Agriculture  
Keith J. Collins



Agricultural Statistics Board  
Chairperson  
Rich Allen

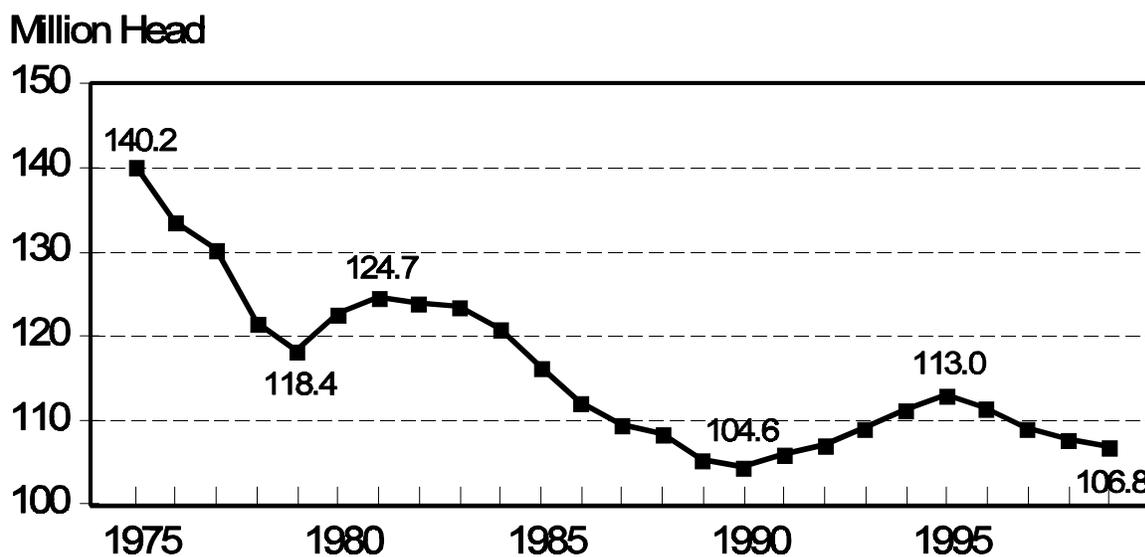
**Cattle and Calves: Number by Class and Calf Crop,  
United States, July 1, 1997-99**

Class	1997	1998	1999	1999 as % of 1998
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Cattle and Calves	109,200	107,700	106,800	99
Cows and Heifers That Have Calved	44,100	43,600	43,200	99
Beef Cows	34,800	34,400	34,050	99
Milk Cows	9,300	9,200	9,150	99
Heifers 500 Pounds and Over	17,100	16,700	16,600	99
For Beef Cow Replacement	5,300	5,000	4,800	96
For Milk Cow Replacement	3,600	3,600	3,700	103
Other Heifers	8,200	8,100	8,100	100
Steers 500 Pounds and Over	14,800	14,600	14,400	99
Bulls 500 Pounds and Over	2,300	2,200	2,100	95
Calves Under 500 Pounds	30,900	30,600	30,500	100
Calf Crop	38,961	38,582	38,300	99
Cattle on Feed	10,900	11,000	11,400	104

**Calf Crop: Number and Percent of Total by Six-Month Period,  
United States, 1997-98 and Preliminary Calf Crop, 1999**

Period	1997		1998		1999	
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total
	<i>1,000 Hd</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Hd</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Hd</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan 1 - Jun 30	28,600	73.4	28,400	73.6	28,200	73.6
Jul 1 - Dec 31	10,361	26.6	10,182	26.4	10,100	26.4
Total	38,961	100.0	38,582	100.0	38,300	100.0

## United States Cattle Inventory July 1, 1975-99



**1999 Inventory 106,800,000 Head**

**Cattle and Calves: Balance Sheet, United States,  
January 1 - June 30, 1997-99<sup>1</sup>**

Item	1997	1998	1999
	<i>Million Head</i>	<i>Million Head</i>	<i>Million Head</i>
January 1 Inventory	101.7	99.7	98.5
Calf Crop and Imports	29.6	29.4	29.2
Total Supply <sup>2</sup>	131.3	129.2	127.7
Slaughter	19.1	18.5	18.6
Deaths and Exports	2.8	2.6	2.5
Total Disappearance <sup>2</sup>	21.9	21.1	21.2
Residual <sup>2</sup>	-0.1	-0.4	0.2
July 1 Inventory	109.2	107.7	106.8

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary.

<sup>2</sup> Totals may not add due to rounding.

## Reliability of July 1 Cattle and Calves Estimates

**Survey Procedures:** A random sample of U.S. producers was surveyed to provide data for these estimates. Survey procedures ensured that all cattle producers, regardless of size, had a chance to be included in the survey. Data were collected during the first half of June from almost 40,000 small and medium sized operations. These operators were contacted by face-to-face personal interviews. About 9,500 large producers and feedlots were contacted during the first half of July by mail, telephone, and face-to-face personal interviews. Operators were asked to report inventories as of the first of the month and calf crop for the entire year of 1999.

**Estimating Procedures:** These cattle estimates were prepared by the Agricultural Statistics Board after reviewing National and State indications and analysis. National and State survey data were reviewed for reasonableness with each other and with estimates from the previous year using a balance sheet. The balance sheet begins with the previous inventory estimate, adds to it estimates of births and imports for the first six months, and subtracts estimates of slaughter, exports, and deaths for the first six months of the current year. This indicated ending inventory level is compared to the Agricultural Statistics Board estimate for reasonableness.

**Revision Policy:** Revisions to previous estimates are made to improve year to year and item to item relationships. Estimates for the previous year are subject to revision when current estimates are made and when the January 1 cattle inventory estimates are made. The reviews are primarily based on livestock slaughter and additional foreign trade and survey data. Estimates will also be reviewed after data from the Department of Agriculture five-year Census of Agriculture are available. No revisions will be made after that date.

**Reliability:** Since all cattle operators are not included in the sample, survey estimates are subject to sampling variability. Survey results are also subject to non-sampling errors such as omissions, duplications, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing the data. The effects of these errors cannot be measured directly. They are minimized through rigid quality controls in the data collection process and through a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

To assist users in evaluating the reliability of estimates in this report, the "**Root Mean Square Error**" is shown for selected items in the table below. The "Root Mean Square Error" is a statistical measure based on past performance and is computed using the differences between first and latest estimates. The "Root Mean Square Error" for cattle inventory estimates over the past 20 years is 0.6 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 106.8 million head by more than 0.6 percent, or about 641,000 head. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 1.1 percent, or about 1,175,000 head (the 90 percent confidence level).

The table below also shows a 20 year record of the range of differences between first and latest estimates for selected items. Using estimates of all cattle and calves as an example, changes between the first inventory estimate and the latest estimate during the past 20 years have averaged 287,000 head, ranging from 0 to 1,500,000 head. During this period the initial inventory estimate has been below the latest estimate 4 times, above the latest estimate 10 times, and unchanged 6 times. This does not imply that the July 1 estimate is likely to understate or overstate final inventory.

**Reliability of July 1 Cattle Estimates <sup>1 2</sup>**

Item	Root Mean Square Error	90 Percent Confidence Level		Difference Between First and Latest Estimates			Number of Years	
		Percent	Head	Average	Smallest	Largest	First Above Latest	First Below Latest
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
All Cattle	0.6	1.1	1,175	287	0	1,500	10	4
All Cows	0.8	1.4	605	120	0	1,100	9	6
Calf Crop	1.7	2.9	1,111	304	23	1,236	14	6

<sup>1</sup> Based on data from July 1979 through July 1998.

<sup>2</sup> Data in the above table do not reflect the 1-3 percent changes made during the 1989-93 historic revision period. The root mean square error's would be about 1 percent higher if these were included.

The next "Cattle" report will be released at 3 p.m. ET on January 28, 2000.

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